The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the St. Louis Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly, free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

801-809 G St. N.W., Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter, September 10, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August, 24, 1912.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 2. NO. 42 WASHINGTON. D. C., JANUARY 18, 1913. WHOLE NO. 94

UNFAIR PROPOSITION.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 18.—Under the caption, "An imposition," the Labor Herald says editorially: "To those who go through the workshops at the State penitentiary at Jefferson City, it is somewhat of a surprise to them to discover that in the shoe department shoes are being made which are labeled 'made in Chicago.' This certainly is a base imposition which should be put an end to, and the administration, which has been in power the past four years, is at fault for knowingly allowing such a thing to be carried on. If the manufactured product of this institution was labeled 'penitentiary made' as it ought to be, the deception could not be practiced. In justice to the thousands who are misled when purchasing footwear, the wrong should have been righted long ago by those who were in a position to do so."

JUDGE ARCHBALD IMPEACHED.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The United States Senate has had before it the consideration of the charges filed against Judge Archbald, circuit judge of the United States, by the House of Representatives. These charges in substance were to the effect that the judge wrongfully used the position which he occupied in the furtherance of business enterprises for personal gain, to the detriment of the dispensation of justice before his court. After a long and tedious trial the Senate on January 13, found Judge Archbald guilty on a number of counts in the charges filed, and pronounced the following sentence upon him. "The Senate therefore do order and decree, and it is hereby adjudged that the respondent, Robert W. Archbald, circuit judge of the United States from the Third judicial circuit, and designated to serve in the Commerce Court, be, and he hereby is removed from office, and that he be, and is hereby forever disqualified to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States." This is the third impeachment case brought before the United States Senate in which convictions were had, the first being Judge Pickering, judge of the United States District Court, of New Hampshire, who was removed from office March 12, 1804. The second was West H. Humphreys, judge of the United States District Court for Tennessee, who was removed from office on June 26, 1862. Judge Archbald is the third who has been convicted in impeachment proceedings since the institution of the National Congress.

FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

St. Paul, Jan. 18.—According to the Minnesota Union Advocate, the St. Paul Free Employment Bureau, maintained by the State, has completed a very successful year, and has been of immeasurable benefit to those seeking employment. A report just issued shows that the laboring people are better off than they have been at any time during the last five years, the period in which the bureau has been in existence. More people are working this winter than in the past, and as a consequence fewer are applying for work than for many years. When it is considered that the climatic conditions in the northern latitude necessarily curtail the amount of work in the winter months, the present state of affairs is gratifying. In a comparative statement issued it is shown that during 1910 employment was secured for 8,303 men and women, while in 1912 employment was secured for 14,938. This statement is proof conclusive that the Free Employment Bureau in St. Paul has not only been effective, but has been extremely beneficial to those in search of employment.

STEAMFITTERS UNSEATED.

Baltimore, Jan. 18.—The delegates from the I. A. Steamfitters, one of whom was President of the Central Body, have been unseated by an almost unanimous vote in the Baltimore Federation of Labor. The matter of the Steamfitters retaining affiliation in a Chartered Central Body was officially brought to the attention of the officials of the American Federation of Labor, and the Central Body was informed that unless Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor was complied with it would be incumbent upon the officials of the A. F. of L. to enforce the law. In consequence thereof the above action was taken.

ASK PAY FOR PRISON LABOR.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 18.—Legislation will be asked for this winter providing for the payment of a small sum per day to certain prisoners at the penal institutions at San Quentin and Fulsom, the money to be sent to the prisoners' families. It is stated that the president of the State board of prison directors and the warden at San Quentin are strongly in favor of this plan. It is asserted that in some States where the payment of wages to prisoners has been tried it has been found that the men do not, in many cases, voluntarily send their wages to their families, so the Legislature will be asked to give the prison directors control over the earnings.

FAVORS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 18.—Governor Sulzer in a recent message to the State Legislature advocated the passage of a resolution amending the constitution of the State, permitting the right of franchise to women. It is stated that the Legislature is favorable to the submission of the amendment and that in all probability this measure will pass the legislature with scarcely a dissenting vote and be submitted to the people of the State of New York for approval or rejection at the next general election.

CARPENTERS RAISE SCALE.

Schenectady, N. Y., Jan. 18.—The local union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters has notified the contractors of a proposed increase in wages from 45 cents to 50 cents an hour. The carpenters will put the increased scale into effect on May 1. There are nearly 600 union carpenters in this city and the last increase was secured in 1906. In all probability the increase will be secured without any friction, as it is recognized that the carpenters are entitled to this small advance.

BUILDING TRADES SETTLEMENT.

Bakersfield, Cal., Jan. 18.—The controversy which has been on between the Building Trades and the Builders' Exchange in this city has been settled. Every building contractor who was connected with the controversy has accepted the settlement reached, and harmony is insured for the present year. A victory has been won by the Building Trades, even though the settlement consisted of a compromise.

NOVEMBER IMMIGRATION.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Department of Commerce and Labor, has just issued its November Bulletin. As usual, the Italians from Southern Italy again head the list in point of numbers, 16,713 having been admitted to the ports of the United States during the month mentioned. Other nationalities admitted are as follows: Polish, 11,856; Hebrew, 9,496; German, 7,126; English, 4,637; Magyar, 4,239; Russian, 3,778; Croatian and Slovenian, 3,652; Slovak, 3,453; Northern Italians, 3,231; Scandinavian, 2,996; Irish, 2,294; the balance being scattered between twenty-eight other nationalities. The total immigration for the month was 94,739. There were debarred during the month under consideration, 1,392. Of those admitted there were 21,989 farm laborers; 15,864 laborers; 11,570 servants; 2,164 tailors; 1,130 carpenters; 1,113 clerks and accountants, the balance being scattered throughout various trades and callings. From this November immigration the State of New York received the largest number, it being 25,541; with Pennsylvania second, with 16,362; Illinois, 7,586; Massachusetts, 7,490; New Jersey, 5,290; Ohio, 5,122; Michigan, 3,887; California, 2,772; Connecticut, 2,713. The balance of the immigrants were widely distributed throughout the various States. During November 41,444 emigrant aliens departed.

MACHINISTS PERTURBED.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The Machinists, through their District organization, have filed a protest against the new wage schedule and system of specilization to be inaugurated at the torpedo station, and they have been assured that the local wage board will take the matter up for consideration. It seems that the old wage schedule provided five rates of pay for machinists, with $3.76 as the maximum, and $2.56 as the minimum. The new schedule increases the $3.76 grade men to $4.00 and three other classes receive an increase of 8 cents per day, the $2.56 rate remaining the same. New ratings for specialists have been established which range from $2.24 to $3.04 per day. It is feared, with this reduction in the minimum from $2.56 to $2.24 will be insufficiently attractive to induce workmen to seek these positions, with the further result that work will be so divided and subdivided as to offer hardly any inducements for all-around expert machinists. At present there are about 200 machinists and 40 apprentices employed at the station. The general executive board of the International Association of Machinists also has the matter under consideration.

NEW YORK'S BIG STRIKE.

New York, Jan. 18.—From reports gathered at strike headquarters there are at present on strike in the garment trades 175,000 people. Of this number there are approximately 110,000 strikers in the men's clothing industry, with 65,000 in the ladies' garment working industry. Negotiations are in progress which indicate that a settlement will be reached in the not distant future, and if present plans are carried out the settlement will be highly favorable to the strikers and will assure a very large increase in the numerical strength of the unions involved. Quite a large per cent of the strikers were not members of their respective unions prior to the strike, but since the inauguration of the contest have affiliated themselves with the organization holding jurisdiction over these industries. A parade was recently held in which approximately 75,000 strikers participated and was the largest demonstration of strikers ever made in this country.

A BAD BILL.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Congressman Hayes, of California, has introduced a bill in the House by the terms of which musicians, actors, artists, lecturers, singers, ministers of any religious denomination, professors for colleges or seminaries, persons belonging to any recognized learned profession, or persons employed strictly as personal or domestic servants would not be prevented by the contract labor provision of the act of 1907 regulating the immigration of aliens into this country. The bill is proposed as an amendment to the act mentioned, and especially to that portion applicable to contract labor. It is not likely that this bill will receive serious consideration. In some of the provisions named there is no prohibition. In fact, the bill has been drafted with the intent of covering up the real matter sought to be accomplished.

SYRACUSE FORWARD MOVEMENT

Syracuse, N. Y., Jan. 18.—The committee having in charge the preliminary arrangements for the union forward movement, reports considerable interest being manifested. An assessment has been levied in the local unions for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses to carry on this work. The outlook for a genuine revival in the trade union world in this city is indeed good, as those who are promoting the forward movement are industrious and enthusiastic over their work.

GOMPERS BEFORE COMMITTEE.

Washington, Jan. 18.—President Gompers on January 10, appeared before the subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee in advocacy of the Clayton injunction limitation bill and made a strong argument in favor of the passage of this legislation. Many hearings have been held upon this measure, which passed the House during the last session of Congress.

BROTHERHOOD OF RY. CARMEN.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 18.—The secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen states that a new local lodge of that organization has just been formed at Cleveland, Ohio. Indications are that substantial increases in wages will be secured in the near future.

MORRISON IN NEW YORK.

New York, Jan. 18.—Secretary Morrison visited New York just preceding the opening of the Garment Workers' strike, and addressed one of the largest meetings ever held by the skirt and waist section of the Ladies' International Garment Workers' Union.

JAMES KIRBY ELECTED.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Unofficial information has reached headquarters of the American Federation of Labor that James Kirby has been elected president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters by approximately 8,500 majority.

WALTER MACARTHUR GIVES INTERESTING VIEWS ON MINIMUM WAGE QUESTION

San Francisco, Jan 11.—A discussion was held recently before the San Francisco Center, at a luncheon, when a Ph. D., LL. D., D. D., and P. Q. D., of the University of California, spoke in favor of the minimum wage, and Walter Macarthur, secretary of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, and Miss Sarah S. Hagan, secretary of the San Francisco Labor Temple, protested against the proposed measure. This meeting was attended by a large number of society leaders and club women, who have indorsed the proposed bill to establish a minimum wage. The problems confronting the wage earners of the country at times arouse the interest of those who are not intimately connected with the labor world, and illusory panaceas are frequently promulgated, the advocates only superficially examining the problems to be solved, and jump into the fray with sentimentalism as the only bid for public favor. Walter Macarthur said:

"I have looked into the subject as well as I could and find that there is very little of official reports of labor on the minimum wage subject. With the exception of the act passed by the Massachusetts Legislature providing for an appointment of a minimum wage commission there seems to be nothing in the United States on the question. The American Federation of Labor at its recent convention acted on that question by deciding that a uniform scale of compensation for work and services would mean the abandonment of our fundamental principle that workers own their own labor power; that they alone, acting as individuals or in voluntary associations, have the sole right to set the price and bargain for the same.

"One of our objections to the minimum wage is that it is likely to lead to the establishment of a minimum that would become in effect a maximum, and thus establish a tendency to lower the wages as already established at a point higher than the legal minimum. Experience in the labor movement in all countries is that the wage rates fixed by the unions, which are in all cases minimum rates, are in all cases regarded by employers as maximum rates.

"It is apparent that the minimum wage law, which should fix the minimum at the point lower than the minimum established by the organized workers, would tend to lower wages in the aggregate, rather than increase them. It appears that the determination of this minimum wage rate is to be based upon the standard of living, which standard is to be determined by a wage commission. I need hardly say that such a method is impractical. A perusal of the Massachusetts law shows quite clearly that it cannot effect anything material or practical.

"The only minimum wage laws I have any knowledge of which are at all effective are enacted in Australia and New Zealand under the compulsory arbitration system. These laws are effective because they carry with them penalities of fine and imprisonment for violation. Many unions and individual members of unions have recently been fined for violation of the wage awards in these countries, and a large number trade unionists are at this moment in prison. We should be warned by these experiences in other quarters against entering upon experiments which are likely to prove disappointing on the one hand and on the other to be harmful in proportion as they are made effective."

DRAWN TO A CLOSE.

Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 18.—Some years ago a number of impetuous spirits in the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers carried out a plan whereby the national organization was split and the seceding portion formed a dual organization, with a full complement of officers. The seceding organization appeared before the Denver convention of the A. F. of L. seeking recognition. The convention, however, refused to recognize the seceding faction and seated the delegates representing the regular organization. At the inception of the difficulty nearly $100,000 in funds were tied up by injunction by the seceders, and litigation over these funds has been in progress ever since. About a year ago the case came to trial and the regular organization, represented by President McNulty and his colleagues, won a signal victory over the seceders, winning practically every point over which contention was had. The seceders, not satisfied with the outcome, refused to accept the verdict of the Cleveland court and appealed the case to the Court of Appeals. On January 13, the Court of Appeals handed down a decision which sustained in every particular the decision rendered by Judge Philips, who presided as judge during the trial of the case. It was proven in the lower court that the seceders had violated the laws of their own organization in organizing a dual International Union, and the regular organization won the case at the trial and has now won a second victory in the Court of Appeals. In cases of this character the organic law of the organization is the basis upon which decisions are arrived at. Owing to this fact, this last decision ought to be sufficiently convincing to those electrical workers outside the regular organization to induce them to seek affiliation with the regular and accredited organization of electrical workers, recognized by the American Federation of Labor. Shortly after the Denver convention, the American Federation of Labor officially recognized the organization which has won two victories in court, and the recognition came after a thorough investigation of all the points at issue and in behalf of the best interest of the American labor movement.

INSPECTOR DEPOSED.

Harrisburg, Jan. 18.—Captain John C. Delaney, Chief Factory Inspector of this State, was recently deposed by the Governor. The organizations of labor throughout the State have in the past charged many delinquencies against the deposed head of the Factory Inspection Department of the State. It is asserted among other things, that the ex-chief was noted for his favoritism toward those employers of labor who desired to grind out the last farthing from their employes, and it is also asserted that office had become a sort of a partisan political clearinghouse to the extent that its efficiency had been almost wholly destroyed.

REFUSE TO ACCEPT CUT.

Springfield, Ohio, Jan. 18.—Recently the officers of the local Polishers' Union sought to adjust the difference between the organization and a local concern that is a large producer of paperhangers' tools and supplies, and employs members of the Metal Polishers' Union. The manager of the company announced a reduction in wages, ranging from 5 per cent to 25 per cent. Negotiations were futile, the management insisting upon the cut in wages, and the men went on strike. Efforts are still being made to secure an adjustment.

A PROPHECY.

Boston, Jan. 18.—"It looks as if the time is coming when the government will run the railroads," said Vice President T. E. Byrnes, of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, in addressing a meeting of conductors recently. "The government now regulates the income of the railroads, the next step will be to regulate the working of the roads and to fix their schedules and time cards. After that the logical step will be to fix wages and hours of labor for the men."

NEW AGREEMENT REACHED.

Houston, Texas, Jan. 18.—As a result of a conference lasting several days, held between Vice President and General Manager H. Martin, of the International and Great Northern Railway, and a committee representing the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, a new agreement for the members of that organization engaged in yard service has been secured.

BARTENDERS ORGANIZE.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 18.—The bartenders have just closed their charter. More than 250 members have been initiated out of a total of about 300. Indications are that the greater portion of those who are not yet members of the new organization will be within the fold in a short time.

BAKERS STILL FIGHTING.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 18.—At a recent meeting of the Bakers' Union, it was announced that two more large bakeries have been thoroughly unionized, and that the membership of the local union has been thereby materially increased.

54-HOUR LAW LEGAL.

New York, Jan. 18.—Justice Blackmar in the Supreme Court of Brooklyn has handed down a decision declaring that the fifty-four hour law, applicable to concerns employing women and children, is constitutional. The decision deals a hard blow to the owners of canning industries, who, in the busy season, force women and children to work eighteen hours a day. It also likewise hits many other industries where this law has been violated in the frenzy for profits. Justice Blackmer said: "The development of the industrial life of the nation, the pressure of women and children entering the industrial field in competition with men, physically better qualified for the struggle, has compelled them to submit to conditions and terms of service which, it cannot be presumed, they would freely choose. The liberty to contract to sell their labor may be but another name for involuntary service created by existing industrial conditions. A law which restrains the liberty to contract may tend to emancipate them by enabling them to act as they choose, and not as competitive conditions compel. All these considerations are for the legislature alone. It is only where the statute controls conduct in matters plainly and obviously indifferent to the welfare of the public, or any portion thereof, that the court can pronounce the act violative of civil liberties. Certainly this is not such a case. Laws which may be meddlesome interferences with the liberty of the inhighly organized society, become essential to public welfare, or even to the continuance of civil liberties themselves."

AGREE TO MEDIATION.

New York, Jan. 18.—The firemen of the fifty Eastern railroads have agreed with the railroad managers to accept the judge of the United States Court of Commerce and Charles P. Neill, United States Commissioner of Labor, as mediators, under the Erdman act, in their controversy over wages and working conditions. About 24,000 firemen are involved in the present controversy, employed on all the railroads east of Chicago and north of the Ohio River. It will be remembered that the locomotive engineers on the lines in question secured recently a favorable arbitration award. This was immediately followed by a demand upon the part of the firemen to secure a like advance in wages.

COMPENSATION BILL DRAFTED.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 18.—The Compensation Commission, created by the last General Assembly, has, after nearly two years, completed the draft of a bill which it will recommend to the General Assembly for enactment. On the commission referred to are representatives of the Coal Miners' Union. Great care has been exercised in drafting the bill. Much research work has been made, and it is expected that, in a general way, the bill will be a satisfactory one, although there probably will be minor amendments added to perfect whatever defects may develop in a thorough discussion of the bill.

PRESSMEN GET AGREEMENT.

Montreal, Can., Jan. 18.—An organizer for the International Printing Pressmen's Union, with a committee of the local union in this city, has secured recognition from the Master Printers and Newspaper Publishers, and executed an agreement for the cylinder pressmen and feeders, carrying with it an increase of $1 per week, while the journeymen newspaper pressmen secured $1.50 a week increase and foremen a $2 increase. An Allied Printing Trades Council has also been established.

WILL USE THE LABEL.

Baltimore, Jan. 18.—The new Municipal Journal will carry the union label on all of its issues. Specifications for the publication of the Journal carry an item requiring the successful bidder to use the union label. The new paper will reach all of the constituent bodies of the Baltimore Federation of Labor, a copy of the Journal to be mailed free to every organization affiliated.

GERMAN CHILDREN AND MOVIES

Berlin, Jan. 18.—The Berlin police, in co-operation with the school authorities, prohibit children under the age of sixteen years from attending moving picture shows where the exhibitions are not specially designed for the youthful mind. Children are only allowed to go to such exhibitions when accompanied by adults before 9 p. m.

FOR SHORTER DAY.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 18.—Efforts to secure the passage of a law providing for an eight-hour day for all engineers of the State of Washington will be made at the next session of the State Legislature by members of the International Union of Steam Engineers.

MINE WORKERS AT CAPITAL.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers held a protest meeting in this city on January 10, for the purpose of giving publicity to the conditions now existing in the Kanawha mining region of West Virginia, where a strike has been on for several months. Congressman Wilson, chairman of the House Labor Committee, presided, and Frank J. Hayes, vice president of the national organization; "Mother" Jones, and a number of other labor men addressed one of the largest labor meetings ever held in Washington. It was asserted that under the reign of martial law many of the active union men among the miners have been sent to the penitentiary for alleged trivial offenses by military commissions without trial by jury, and for periods up to five years. It was further contended that all efforts had been unavailing to get the State government to abandon this military regime and also to take steps to do away with the system now in vogue of armed guards, employed by the various mining companies. Instances of extreme brutal treatment were recited, which indicates that the campaign being conducted by the coal mine operators is one of the most reprehensible that has ever been instituted. Congressman Wilson has introduced a resolution in Congress, calling for a Federal investigation of the West Virginia difficulty. Among the charges made, as a basis for the resolution, is that the United States mails are interferred with and that a system of peonage exists. Efforts are to be made by the officials of the mine workers to the end that this resolution may receive favorable consideration and the investigation held. Notwithstanding the difficulty attending the prosecution of the strike in the West Virginia fields the United Mine Workers are making a determined and splendid effort to secure for the miners the rights to which they are entitled. For years the United Mine Workers have endeavored to unionize the West Virginia fields and those who are engaged in this work are confident that eventually success will obtain.

MINNESOTA INSURANCE BILL.

Duluth, Jan. 18.—A rather singular condition of affairs has arisen in this State. Agitation has been carried on by the State Federation of Labor in favor of a workmen's compensation act, and likewise there has been activity among other classes of citizens. The employers of the State have drawn up a bill for the purpose of submitting it to the coming State Legislature, and so also has the Bar Association. The State Federation is also completing a draft of a workmen's compensation law. Neither the drafts of the employers' nor Bar Association's bills are considered favorably by the laboring people. The State Federation of Labor, however, will endeavor to secure at the hands of the Legislature an effective workmen's compensation law, and there are indications which point to success in this effort. Employers are beginning to realize that workmen's compensation laws are coming, and their efforts are extended in the direction of securing as weak laws as it is possible. The State Federation will use every means at its command to secure a just and equitable compensation law.

TAKES OVER PHONES.

London, Jan. 18.—The British government is to pay to the National Telephone Company of the United Kingdom the sum of $62,576,320 for its property, according to a decision reached by the railway and canal commission, sitting as a court of arbitration. It will be remembered that the entire telephone system in the British Isles passed into the hands of the empire on January 1, 1912, and is now in operation under the direction of the post-office department of Great Britain. It was expected that the National Telephone Company would be awarded a much larger sum than the decision noted, but it is quite evident that the arbitration court was successful in arriving at an equitable price for which to pay for the property.

FIREMEN SECURE RAISE.

Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 18.—The following item in the Toledo Union Leader is self-explanatory: "As a result of negotiations between the Libbey Glass Company and the engineers'-firemen's conference committee, the firemen in that plant have had their wages raised 40 cents a day. The conference committees of the local unions have been maintaining friendly relations for some time, and their team work is bringing good results. They are now at work endeavoring to secure better conditions among engineers."

DEMAND INCREASE.

Springfield, Ohio, Jan. 18.—The Carpenters' Union of this city has prepared an increased scale, which it proposes to endeavor to put into effect May 1. The scale of the carpenters is much below that of the other building trades. The carpenters only ask an advance of 5 cents an hour. It is too early to predict whether the increase will be secured without strike or not.

A GENEROUS ACT.

Fresno, Cal., Jan. 18.—The Fresno Labor News, prior to the holidays, inaugurated a plan to secure the assistance of organized labor in sending Christmas baskets, containing meat and groceries, to the widows of Fresno. This idea met with a hearty response, all of the unions contributing generously to this fund. While it was the original intention to distribute the Christmas cheer to widows only, the funds came in so generously that it was decided to extend the original plan and include all the needy in the city. Nearly $500 was collected, and all but $20 came from the pockets of union men. A notable fact should be mentioned, and speaks volumes in itself, and that is that not one name turned in or basket distributed went to a member of organized labor. This fact is an unanswerable argument on behalf of the unions of labor, that their affiliates receive such benefit from their organizations in wages, hours and conditions of employment that they are abundantly able to provide for their own wants, and in addition to bring to the lives and homes of others in less fortunate circumstances a ray of sunshine during a gladsome portion of the year.

AN EARNEST APPEAL.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 18.—Samuel Gompers pleaded with the Senate recently to quickly enact legislation to save the lives of children and protect men and women wage earners. Mr. Gompers is in Albany for the purpose of conferring with Gov. Sulzer with regard to anti-children and anti-women slavery laws, and entered the Senate chamber while a Senator was urging the passage of a bill creating a court of arbitration and officially recognizing trade unions. Mr. Gompers was invited to a seat alongside the president pro tem of the Senate and was requested to deliver an address. "Without committing myself to the bill under consideration, I wish to say that you are confronted with problems involving the very lives of children, women, and men. You are soon to deal with measures framed by the investigating commission of which I am a member, intended to stop the exploitation of child labor. I hope you will enact laws which will protect not only the young, but the women and men, from the greed and rapacity of certain heartless employers. The children should be in the homes, in the schools, and on the playgrounds, and not put to hard labor."

WILMINGTON NEWS.

Wilmington, N. C., Jan. 18.—Unionists are displaying greater activity than ever before, and the lassitude which has been apparent in the past is disappearing. Recently a Trades Council was formed by some of the active workers, and a charter secured from the A. F. of L., and much interest is now being taken in general organization work. Special attention is being given to the carpenters, painters, tailors, and blacksmiths, all of these crafts having had local unions here in years gone by. The printers and pressmen secured contracts with all shops in the city for eight hours and an increase in wages of about 15 per cent. These contracts went into effect January 1, and are for one year. The plumbers are having a little difficulty, one firm holding out for the open shop. Indications are indeed bright for the coming year.

THE PEOPLES' RAILROAD.

San Francisco, Jan. 18.—The Municipal Railroad of San Francisco is in operation. It is the old Geary Street Line, reconstructed, which passed to the city upon the expiration of its franchise several years ago. The fight for a municipal street railway began years ago with only a few advocates, notable among them being James H. Barry, an old and staunch union man and now editor of the San Francisco Star. It has been a long, wearisome, and persistent fight to accomplish the result mentioned, and, as is customary, some of the metropolitan publications of this city are claiming the credit for this achievement. That matters not, however, for the pioneers in the movement for a municipally owned street railway can take satisfaction in the fact that their persistent work has found its fruition in the operation of the line referred to.

TROLLEYMEN SETTLE.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 18.—On the street railway system which crosses the State line from this city into Rhode Island, a controversy arose which was somewhat unique. It seems that the management of the Massachusetts Street Railway line employs union street carmen, and under a traffic agreement cars are running over another line into Providence, R. I. The men employed upon the Rhode Island line are not organized, while the Massachusetts end is. The management of the street railway line in Rhode Island has successfully fought organization, and, in the mix-up, owing to this sort of interlocking railway management, some union men were discharged. A settlement has, however, been reached, and those who were discriminated against have been reinstated and a number of unfair working rules have also been eliminated.

ORGANIZATIONS BOOMING.

Erie, Jan. 18.—The local labor paper has this to say: "If any further proof were needed that a wave of organization has struck this city it was furnished during the past week or two. Union meetings in the various rooms in labor headquarters have been so well attended that complaints about a scarcity of chairs have been made. This is the first of a series of occurrences of this nature that have been made within the memory of some of the oldest trade unionists, and is an indication that the workingmen are becoming aroused and are determined to make more effective their unions to the end that relief can be had from present conditions."

PICTURE OPERATORS' UNION.

Toronto, Jan. 18.—The moving picture operators, on strike in a number of the moving picture houses, feel gratified over the success which is being attained. A number of the establishments have signed up, but there remains two or three recalcitrant employers, but indications are that the organization will finally be successful in securing all the houses.

POLICEMEN STRIKE.

Connellsville, Pa., June 18.—The police force in this city, having made a demand for an increase from $65 to $70 per month and not securing same, went on strike. The men on the force were not organized.

ASK FOR MORE FUNDS.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The Secretary of the Navy has asked Congress for a deficiency appropriation to cover the increase of 10 per cent in wages contemplated for the employes of the Washington Navy Yard during the remaining half of the fiscal year of 1913. The increased pay proposed is in accordance with the recommendations made by a board attached to the Navy Department, created by the House Naval Committee, which investigated conditions at the local navy yard. The Secretary conveys the information that additional funds must be provided or the number of men must be decreased.

A. F. OF L. THE HAVEN.

Baltimore, Jan. 18.—The National Transport Workers' Federation, once touted to be the agency through which emancipation would come to sailors, longshoremen, and kindred trades, after a short but fitful career, tottered and fell. It was organized upon the theory that the American labor movement, as expressed by the A. F. of L., was not speedy enough to catch up with the hurricane views and methods of the National Transport Workers' Federation, which was to revolutionize, and which did (on paper) all water-front crafts. New York City was the citadel of the movement referred to, but its walls have crumbled, with many of the organizations withdrawing therefrom, and now the local unions in this city formerly attached to the National Transport Workers' Federation have decided to affiliate themselves with the regular and recognized International Longshoremen's Association, and one of the local unions has already made application for a charter, with other organizations making final arrangemennts. Secretary Joyce, of the International Longshoremen's Association, with headquarters at Buffalo, N. Y., has been requested to visit this city for the purpose of assisting in taking over the organizations that are eligible to the International Association, and is expected to accept the invitation.

STEEL WORKERS GET RAISE.

Pittsburg, Jan. 18.—The sixty-day adjustment of wages, based on the sliding scale agreement signed by the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America and all bar iron manufacturers that have signed this scale, resulted once more in giving puddlers, bushelers, and finishers in those mills a substantial advance in wages. Commencing January 1, 1913, the wage rate for puddling will be $6.45 per ton, or $1.20 above the minimum base of the puddling scale. The finishers received an additional 2 per cent advance, putting all finishing scales 8 per cent above the minimum base. This proves the worth of the sliding scale, which was abandoned by the so-called Sons of Vulcan last July, when they accepted a flat rate of $6.00. As a result, they are now receiving 45 cents a ton less than those working under the Amalgamated Association's agreement.

WHITE RATS' INVESTIGATION.

Washington, Jan. 18.—At one time in the not distant past there were in New York two organizations of actors—the White Rats of America and the Actors' International Union—and by an agreement mutually entered into an amalgamation took place. Since that time there has been a heated controversy in the ranks of the organization. Charges have been made that the terms of amalgamation have been violated. At Rochester the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor authorized the Executive Council to make an investigation, the A. F. of L. having been a party to the amalgamation of these unions. On Saturday, January 11, President Gompers and Secretary Morrison held a conference, pursuant to the instructions of the A. F. of L. convention. The report of the investigation will be made to the Executive Council, which convenes on January 20.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' RAISE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 18.—The local organization of Electrical Workers employed by the city has secured a wage increase approximating $10 per month, and also shortened the working hours to eight per day. A signed agreement has been entered into, and is the first one secured by the organization from the officials of the city. Two shifts will hereafter be employed instead of one, as in the past, when the men worked from ten to twelve hours per day. The union also has presented a new scale to the electrical contractors of the city, asking for an increase of 10 cents per hour, and it is said that the employers have offered as a compromise 5 cents per hour. No definite understanding has been reached as yet with the contractors.

CLERKS GET AGREEMENT.

Danville, Ill., Jan. 18.—The best agreement ever negotiated by the Danville Retail Clerks' Union has been signed by thirty-four leading mercantile firms of this city, and will remain in force for two years—throughout 1913 and 1914. Embodied in the new agreement are clauses providing in the future for holiday and Sunday closing. On the holidays designated the clerks are to receive the entire day, with no reduction in pay, and the stores are to close earlier on Saturday night than heretofore.

BOSTON DOINGS.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 18.—Recently a strong local of chauffeurs employed by the city was organized. Another local union of meat cutters and butcher workmen has been also organized. The hat workers' union, a new one on the list, has been installed and the membership is growing.

CLERKS ORGANIZING.

Hoquiam, Wash., Jan. 18.—The Retail Clerks of Aberdeen and Hoquiam are being reorganized by the Secretary of the State Federation, together with the assistance of the Women's Union Label League.

ORGANIZE THE MIXERS.

Clinton, Ill., Jan. 18.—The bartenders have just organised here, with a membership of twenty, which comprises the greater portion of those employed in that avocation in this town.

PERU STRIKE WON.

Callao, Peru, Jan. 18.—The striking dock laborers have returned to work, having been granted their demands for a 10 per cent increase in wages and an eight-hour day.